retrenchment compensation should be higher in a running organization than in an organization which is being closed; compensation in case of sick units to be different from profit making units, etc.

(b) All the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour are under process in consultation with various social partners.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Assistance to beedi labourers

1733. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to assist beedi labourers during the last six months in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such assistance given in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) what is the official machinery of the State Government which is responsible for welfare of beedi labourers; and

(d) the specific achievements towards welfare of beedi workers in the State during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The Government is running a number of welfare schemes for the welfare of beedi workers in the fields of health, social security, housing education and recreation throughout the country including Andhra Pradesh through Labour Welfare Organisation in the Ministry of Labour. Labour Welfare Organisation is headed by Director General (Labour Welfare) and has nine regional offices including one at Hyderabad, which caters to the welfare needs of workers of Andhra Pradesh. The Labour Welfare Organisation's office at Hyderabad is headed by Welfare Commissioner who is assisted by one Welfare Administrator and Assistant Welfare Administrator and other Ministerial staff in performing his official duty. There are 12 Static-cum-Mobile and 3 Static dispensaries in Andhra Pradesh, which are providing health care benefits to beedi workers. Each of these dispensaries are provided with medical officer, staff nurse, pharmacist and dresser-cum-attendant.

Performance of L.W.O. in A.P. during the period of April-September, 2002 is as under:

Scheme	Number	Amount Spent
Death cases settled under Group Insurance Scheme	32	Rs. 1,17,000/-
Patient treated in dispensaries	305381	Rs. 27,46,728/-
Domiciliary Treatment of TB	41	Rs. 2, 04,741/-
Treatment of Cancer	6	Rs. 1,59,885/-
Maternity benefit	9	Rs. 4,500/-
Financial assistance for education	22365	Rs. 83,75,161/-
Administrative approval for construction of individual hours	295	Rs. 29,00,000/- (sanctioned)

Agitation by trade unions

1734. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trade unions like AITUC, CITU and INTUC in a joint statement have blamed Government for not undertaking a thorough "appraisal of the economic policy" and also against its "globalisation policy and retrograde reforms";

(b) whether it is also a fact that they have threatened to launch a nation-wide *satyagraha* and *jail bharo* stir on the 8th January, 2003 followed by march to Parliament on the 26th February during the next Budget Session; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to avoid this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has seen newspaper reports regarding the proposed agitation by the trade unions on January 8 and February 26, 2003. The trade unions have time and again raised the issue of adverse impact of economic reforms on labour. Review/updation of labour laws is an ongoing process for bringing them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy. The Government has already initiated the process of tripartite consultation and there is a continuing interaction